

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 28, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-18 were pending in this application. Claims 15-18 were allowed. Claims 1-14 were rejected. Claim 16 was objected to because of a misspelling.

Objection to Claim 16

Claim 16 was objected to because of a misspelled word in line 1 of this claim. Applicants respectfully submit that after careful review of a copy of the patent application as filed, no misspelling in line 1 of claim 16 could be found.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,734,487 to Rossi (hereinafter "Rossi"), . Claims 1-7 and 9-14 have been canceled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rossi. Claim 8 has been canceled.

Allowed Claims

Claims 15-18 have been allowed.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

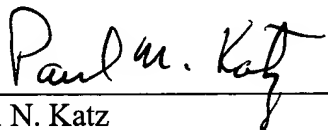
SUMMARY.

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Order Number 068354.1088.**

Respectfully submitted,

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